**Candidate Statement – Carla M. Decker**

I am motivated and energized to seek reelection to the Board of NCBA CLUSA to continue to provide leadership in operationalizing the vision of an inclusive economy that works for all. In that regard, I am honored to serve as the Board’s 1st Vice-President, to have Co-Chaired the Membership Growth Task Force to build engagement and representation, and to have been appointed as NCBA’s representative to Cooperatives of the Americas, the regional body of the International Cooperative Alliance. With this candidacy, I seek to continue to serve the Association, and by extension, cooperatives and cooperative owners at a time when the crises of the past year evidence a heightened need for a movement that creates a more inclusive economy for all.

I am in Washington, DC where despite the somberness of the moment, the mood is optimistic. That same hope is felt in the Minority Depository and Community Development Financial Institution that is the credit union I lead. For in adversity, our staff and members have shown the resilience, hard work and values of self- and mutual-help that evoke our roots in solving for racial and financial equity, and the work and investment that is enabled by our cooperative identity.

During this period of recovery, as my Co-op strives to build opportunity and more resilient families, it is evident that we require an ecosystem that provides for much more than affordable, accessible financial services. As a cooperator, and credit union development educator, I believe that when the care is for social and economic justice, we are better capable to deepen impact through cross sector alignment and cooperation that addresses the whole spectrum of challenges (dignified employment, reliable energy, healthy foods, affordable housing, and more) that keep people and communities disenfranchised and marginalized. In other words, the collection of our work is what deepens our impact for sustainable development!

So I seek re-election with a clear understanding and appreciation of the responsibility, value and impact that NCBA CLUSA holds, as our national association, to provide leadership in facilitating and operationalizing the vision of an inclusive economy that lifts our co-ops and people who use, own and control them.